

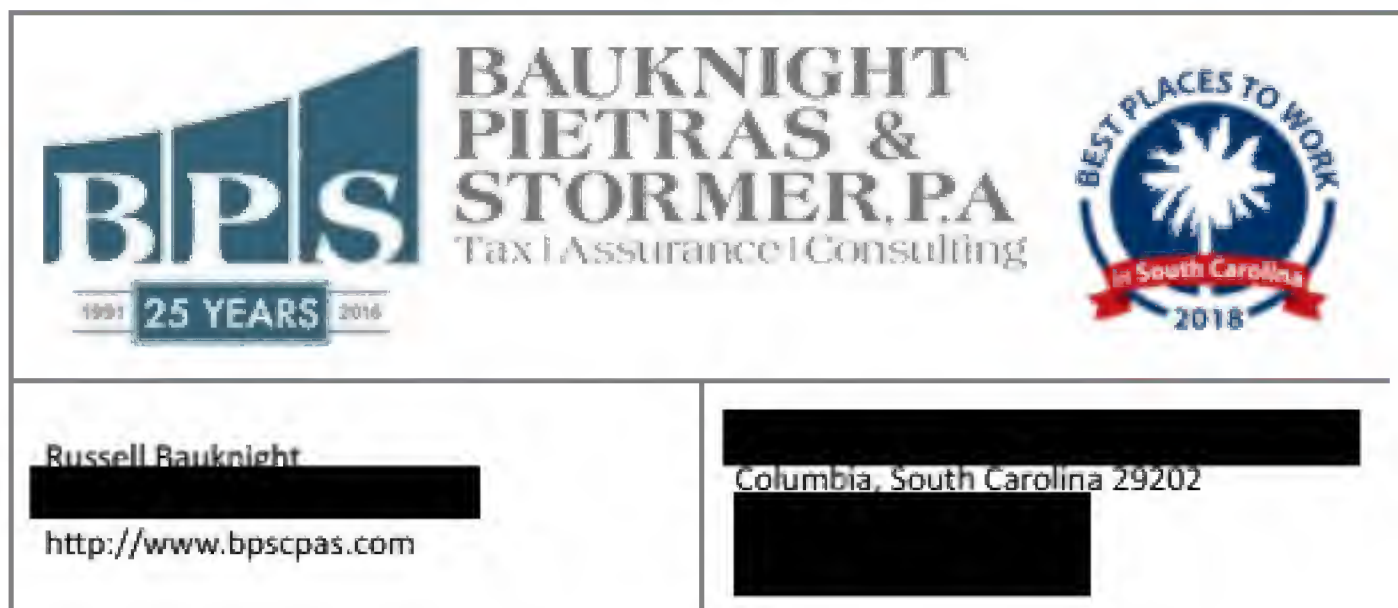
**Subject:** RE: note from Thomas Lake / CNN  
**Date:** Friday, July 6, 2018 at 4:13:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Russell Bauknight  
**To:** Lake, Thomas G.  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg, image002.png, image704000.jpg, image909001.png

Thomas, I do know who you are. No need for me to go over your history.

I do not, nor will I ever grant permission for Mr. Washington to provide you with an interview. I am quite sure that Mr. Washington knows his duties and frankly it would be a shame if you were to cost him his job by trying to make him think that he will be OK in speaking with you.

Now, if you care to address any questions to me, feel free to submit them in writing.

Russell Bauknight



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**From:** Lake, Thomas G. [mailto:Thomas.Lake@cnn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 4:08 PM  
**To:** Russell Bauknight  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: note from Thomas Lake / CNN

Thank you for your reply, Mr. Bauknight.

I'm sure you know by now that I had a brief conversation with Mr. David Washington yesterday at the gate outside James Brown's former home in South Carolina. Mr. Washington was friendly and cordial, but he declined to answer my questions. As best I can tell, he believes that his employment situation precludes him from talking to me.



Thus, I'm reaching out to you, his supervisor with the James Brown estate. I am asking if you will grant permission to Mr. Washington to share with me his recollections of Mr. Brown's final days. I make this request in the course of a good-faith inquiry regarding the life and death of Mr. James Brown. Given Mr. Brown's status as a worldwide celebrity, this inquiry is a matter of genuine public interest.

If you're still skeptical about my reporting credentials, as it seemed in our last telephone conversation, I encourage you to look into my background as a journalist. I think you'll find evidence that I've been fair and accurate while covering a variety of topics.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lake  
Senior Writer  
CNN Worldwide  
[REDACTED]




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**From:** Russell Bauknight [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Friday, July 6, 2018 at 3:46 PM  
**To:** "Lake, Thomas G." <[Thomas.Lake@cnn.com](mailto:Thomas.Lake@cnn.com)>  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: note from Thomas Lake / CNN

Thomas,

I received your voicemail. If you would like to submit your questions in writing I will be happy to review them. I prefer to handle this in writing as so many times in the past there has been way too much written that is simply not true. I will not accommodate verbal interviews for that reason.

Russell

  	
Russell Bauknight [REDACTED] <a href="http://www.bpscpas.com">http://www.bpscpas.com</a>	[REDACTED] Columbia, South Carolina 29202 [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: Lake, Thomas G. [<mailto:Thomas.Lake@cnn.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 12:41 PM

To: Russell Bauknight

Subject: note from Thomas Lake / CNN

Dear Mr. Bauknight:

Hoping we could chat for 5 minutes when you get a chance. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lake  
Senior Writer  
CNN Worldwide  
